NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER, 1943 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 11, NO. 1

Monthly Memo TO: *Local Presidents*

DO YOU KNOW this *Bulletin* is planned especially to be helpful to *local presidents* — that it is the one direct channel of communication between you and the National Congress? That being the case, it seems to me that we — you and I — should become acquainted.

When we were children we all liked to play "Let's pretend," and I am wondering if we can't still play it. Let's pretend, each month, that we are having a "presidents' conference" right here on this page. I'll talk to you about a variety of things, and I hope you will talk to me in return. Ask questions; tell me what features of the *Bulletin* are most helpful; let me know what else we might put in.

You local leaders are the most important people in our whole vast organization. You are the captains serving actively on the home front. The usefulness, the prestige, and the dignity of the whole organization rest in your hands. We are all judged by the standards you adhere to. Those of us who serve nationally are "folks" just like you; we began work in some local association and have kept on with it because we feel that the most worth-while thing in life is to help protect, guide, and educate children. In the latter part of September the National Board will be meeting in Chicago to discuss "Children in Wartime — and After"; all your national officers, state presidents, and national chairmen will convene to plan together about *your* work, *your* problems, and how *your* National Congress can help.

SOME of the ways in which we try to help are well known to you. We publish the *Manual* and send it to you as a guide; we have a fine magazine, which I do hope all of you use to the fullest. We want the *Bulletin* also to become as helpful as possible; that's why I am asking you to let me have your ideas.

Tell me how things are with you and your local unit. Another school year is beginning; are you ready for it? Has your association worked during the summer getting committees appointed, monthly programs outlined in advance, officers and committees instructed in their duties? Are you wondering what difficulties may confront you this year, and do you sometimes wonder if you can carry on? Our organization has lived through two wars and a long depression, but it has grown steadily because so many of you realized the importance of the work.

Homemaking and teaching are essential industries today, and home and school must work together. We need the support of as many people as possible in all our communities. Do you offer membership as a privilege, as a badge of honor signifving devotion to the welfare of all children?

Many demands will be made on you this year, but don't try to do everything. Keep to those activities which lie within your own area of work and our war program. And do let me hear from you; I am eager to know you all. We are not strangers, but friends and fellow workers. We are all volunteers, working because we believe in what we are doing. That entitles us to friendship and the privileges of friendship one with another. Let's *feel* this unity.

I'll be looking forward to your letters!

Mrs. Henrietta A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

THE BAXTERS ARE *COMING*

Last month's *Bulletin* brought you the first news of the Baxter family's return to the air waves, and this month we are able to share with you some of the plans for the new series of broadcasts. These will cover every important phase of family life in wartime, as the overall title "The Family in War" — yes, we're using it again this year — indicates.

Problems of health, conservation, the care and protection of children and young people, wartime morale, consumer education, recreation, the schools, the community — all will come to you through the daily experiences of Marge and Bill and their three children, Bud and Janey and Sandy. And, directly or indirectly, we may meet some friends of the Baxter family, too.

No definite time has yet been set. Watch your *Bulletin* for that; as soon as it's determined, we'll let you know. Meanwhile it's a very good idea to get into contact with your listening groups, if you haven't done so already, and remind them of the interesting times they had last year. And — while we're talking about good ideas — it's an even better idea to promote the organization of more, bigger, and better listening groups in your community. There's not a family in the land but would profit by hearing these stimulating broadcasts and their interpretation by the Voice of the P.T.A.

Among the topics selected for broadcasts — and this is just a sample — are the following:

- **They Don't Mean to Be Bad**
- **Have They Time to Play?**
- **Easy Come, Easy Go**
- **What's Worth Learning**
- **The War Bride Grows Up**
- **Let's Go to Church**
- **Whose Job — His or Hers?**
- **The Major Needs of Minors**

Be sure to call special attention to the THIRD WAR LOAN DRIVE at your next P. T. A. meeting.

Ten Good Reasons

FOR JOINING THE P. T. A.

• You have a son or a daughter, or both, or several of either or each. Or you're a teacher, with more children than the Old Woman in the Shoe to be responsible for. Or you're just a citizen, someone who knows that this world is going to need new leaders pretty soon and that those leaders will have to be recruited from among the youngsters down the block and others like them. Whichever you are, there's a place for you in the P.T.A. and a reason why you should be occupying that place right now. Somewhere in this list you'll probably find your own particular reason. See if you don't:

I. There's a war on. In time of war, so many old-time basic values are in danger of being forgotten that it takes all every one of us can do to prevent it. The P.T.A. stands guard over just such values.

II. Children's needs won't wait. It doesn't take long to grow up. And growing up under unwholesome or undesirable conditions means tragedy to the child and loss to the nation. The P.T.A. helps prevent both.

III. Many heads are better than one. In the parent-teacher association all members pool their thinking in a common cause.

IV. We've got to do something about the increase in juvenile delinquency, the day care of war workers' children, and a dozen other pressing problems. The P.T.A. meeting is a good place to find out what.

V. We want our boys and girls to grow into responsible adults. It's a good idea to let them see responsible adults from their own homes working together in the P.T.A.

VI. This world needs to learn exactly what democracy is all about. Where better than in the P.T.A., one of the most democratic organizations in America?

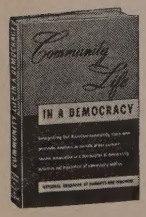
VII. We know more about training children than we used to. It makes a difference. The P.T.A. makes the latest and best information easily available.

VIII. We need a balance-wheel for our war activities. The P.T.A. is grand at helping its members put first things first.

IX. We want to do something practical to help win this war, so that we can go back to living normally. P.T.A. work for children is as *practical* as any work can be.

X. Most of us have a more or less suppressed desire to do something to make the world a little bit better. In the P.T.A. there's a chance to begin to feel that this is is not asking too much. Making the world better by rearing a better generation of children — that's not impossible at all. Anyhow, not in the P.T.A.

(Copy and send to prospective members)



Tailored to Our Specifications

Suppose you saw in your community newspaper some morning an item like this: "Frank Blank, local farmer, likes to do things the hard way. His son from the city sent him the newest type of tractor, but Frank does all his plowing with a crooked stick. Says it was good enough for his ancestors and it's good enough for him."

Absurd? Of course it's absurd. But are we, as parent-teacher workers, really so far ahead of Frank Blank when we go on doing our work without tools, while the latest and best modern implements lie ready to our hands?

All right, we'll come out into the open. We're talking about *Community Life in a Democracy*, that fine, reliable, up-to-date guide to community service published by our own National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Why work without it, when it offers you a kind of help you can't get elsewhere at any price — and we mean just that, for *Community Life* is unique. It is cut and tailored to P.T.A. specifications. And it is priced at cost so that you can buy it for as low as $1. Order your copy today!

IDEAS FOR THE HIGH-SCHOOL P. T. A.

How can the high-school parent-teacher association "make every moment count" in its program for the all-around welfare of high-school boys and girls? These young people need our help now as never before. We might try:

• *Taking youth into our confidence.* Young people admitted to parent-teacher forums and other discussions have given a good account of themselves. Why not plan a series of panel discussions with youth for the coming school year? The suggestions and contributions of boys and girls of this age are often most valuable when it comes to planning further activities.

• *Providing high-school youths with plenty of wholesome recreation suited to their age level.* Could not your high-school P.T.A. sponsor a series of dances? A roller-skating tournament? A series of one-act plays? (For further suggestions, consult the pamphlet "Teen Trouble," issued by the National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York City.) It is a good idea to have some of the boys and girls themselves serving on program and planning committees for all social events.

• *Letting youth share in community and war activities.* And by "sharing" we mean full participation. If our high-school boys and girls, for example, are helping to sell war stamps and bonds, let's confer with them on their work and its results just as we do with co-workers of our own age. Youth is quick to feel either appreciation or the lack of it. An arrangement might be worked out by which young people serving the community war effort *in any way* might report their experiences and findings at regular parent-teacher meetings.

• *Cooperating heartily with the "community service division" of the High School Victory Corps.* Organize an Advisory Committee to counsel and aid the young people in preparing themselves for citizenship. This would be a continuing project throughout the school year, and it would give the youngsters a sense of actual participation with adults in the service of the community.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 11 SEPTEMBER, 1943 Number 1

Published monthly from August through May, bi-monthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

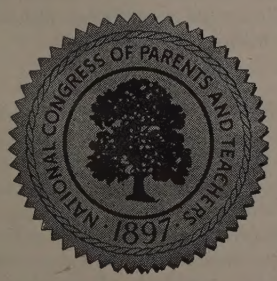
Proclamation

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS stands today at the threshold of a new era — an era of opportunity for service to children and youth that is based on a larger understanding of its possibilities than has ever been gained before. We are living at the historic moment when the whole world is beginning to lend an attentive ear to the principles that have motivated the work of our organization since its earliest beginnings. Now is the time to make those principles felt. Now is the time to take decisive steps to secure for every child everywhere the health, the security, the careful nurture, and the wise cherishing that will bring him to fulfillment of his highest capacities. Nearly all families are striving earnestly to give their children a normal life even in the midst of war, but they cannot achieve it alone. It is our responsibility, as members of an organization dedicated to the welfare of all children everywhere, to give them the help they need.

It will be no holiday task. Our children are besieged on all sides by influences that, if unchecked, can do them nothing but harm. We see the effects of these influences in the rising rate of juvenile delinquency; in the widespread neglect of young children whose parents are engaged in war work; in the many hasty and ill-considered war marriages contracted by boys and girls who have neither taken the thought nor gained the insight needed to make such a marriage successful. It is a mistake to assume that the effect of all these untoward factors will be confined to the less sheltered and less protected young people in the community. All young people are affected by such influences. Our work is needed no less for the protection of our own children than for the protection of others.

The picture is not all dark. Our task, though hard, is hopeful; for we enter upon it in a world awakened to the need. This year, as never before, we may justly expect to find thousands of men and women only too eager to join forces with us, striving with heart and hand to build the sort of environment for children, in home, school, and community, that will protect them from all harm and guide them naturally into the fullness of life.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Minnetta A. Hastings, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, do hereby designate the month beginning October 1 as Membership Enrollment Month, and I call upon every member of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to fulfill without stint the implied responsibility of his own membership therein— the responsibility to share with his friends, kindred, and acquaintance his knowledge of this opportunity for service. Let all units of this great organization work together, and let every member of every unit work separately; as we win many newcomers to our ranks, so shall we increase many times over the value and effectiveness of our work. Tomorrow's world waits on our faithfulness.

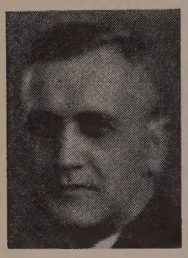


To this proclamation, accordingly, I have set my hand and the seal of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Minnetta A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

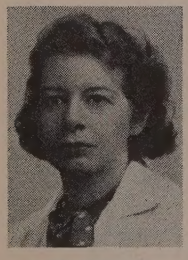
DR. DALE



MR. WALKER

MRS. MARTENS

MRS. KLETZER



DR. HOTOPP

MRS. JESSE

INTRODUCING OUR NEW *National Chairmen*

IN this issue, the *National Congress Bulletin* introduces to parent-teacher leaders and members everywhere the seventeen chairmen recently elected to the National Board, and presents brief outlines of their careers.

The standing committees of the National Congress are of two kinds, organizational committees and "subject" committees. The former concern themselves with maintaining and improving the structural strength of the parent-teacher organization; the latter are engaged in forwarding parent-teacher work in special fields related to child welfare and the education of parents.

Committees of both types are active in an advisory capacity to parent-teacher groups all over the country. Strong interest attaches, therefore, to a change of leadership in any one of them. The committees that have new chairmen, together with the chairmen's names, are:

- *Audio-Visual Education:* Dr. Edgar Dale, Columbus, Ohio.
- *Citizenship:* Mr. Knox Walker, Atlanta, Georgia.
- *Exceptional Child:* Dr. Elise H. Martens, Washington, D. C.
- *Founders Day:* Mrs. William Kletzer, Portland, Oregon.
- *Health and Summer Round-up of the Children:* Dr. Marion Hotopp, Dover, Del.
- *International Relations:* Mrs. R. H. Jesse, Missoula, Montana.
- *Legislation:* Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, Jacksonville, Florida.
- *Membership:* Mrs. True Davis, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- *Narcotics Education:* Miss Winnie Buckels, Jackson, Mississippi.
- *Parent Education:* Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Iowa City, Iowa.
- *Procedure and Bylaws:* Mrs. H. F. Godeke, Lubbock, Texas.
- *Programs:* Mrs. Charles D. Center, College Park, Georgia.
- *Recreation:* Mrs. Rollin Brown, Los Angeles, California.
- *Rural Service:* Dr. I. D. Weeks, Vermillion, South Dakota.
- *Safety:* Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- *School Education:* Miss Agnes Samuelson, Des Moines, Iowa.
- *Social Hygiene:* Mrs. Bess N. Rosa, Greensboro, North Carolina.

AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION

Dr. Edgar Dale has recently rejoined the faculty of Ohio State University after serving as head of the Coordination Division of the Bureau of Motion Pictures in the Office of War Information.

Dr. Dale has a long record of distinguished service in educational work. In addition to his routine professional duties, he has been active in many groups dedicated to youth welfare. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Department of Visual Education of the National Education Association. He has contributed largely to professional journals and has written a number of books on motion pictures, their influence and their proper use and regulation.

CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Knox Walker, a general supervisor of schools, has had many years of study and contact with problems in the fields of education, social science, and welfare. He served as president of the Georgia Education Association in 1941-42, and is active in that association's Department of Rural Education.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

Dr. Elise H. Martens is Senior Specialist in the Education of Exceptional Children of the U. S. Office of Education. She is a member of the National Education Association; the American Association on Mental Deficiency; the American Educational Research Association; the International Council for Exceptional Children; the National Society for Crippled Children; and the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Dr. Martens has done both public school and college teaching, as well as much educational research; has been active in clinical and consultative work; and is the author of many government bulletins dealing with exceptional and handicapped children.

FOUNDERS DAY

Mrs. William Kletzer, whose term of office as national president has recently expired, has been a member of the National Board for a number of years. She has had wide experience in dealing with social problems and has held office in many organizations. During her administration as president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Kletzer strongly emphasized the prin-

MRS. McCLELLAN

MRS. DAVIS

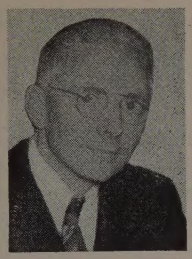
MISS BUCKELS

DR. OJEMANN

MRS. GODEKE

MRS. CENTER

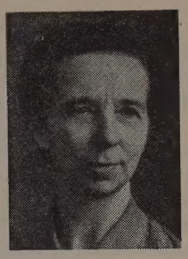
MRS. BROWN



DR. WEEKS

MRS. NICHOLSON

MISS SAMUELSON



MRS. ROSA

(*Continued from page 4*)

ciples emerging from the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy. The equalization of educational opportunity and the maintenance of educational facilities in wartime are among her major interests.

HEALTH AND SUMMER ROUND-UP OF THE CHILDREN

Dr. Marion Hotopp is Director of Maternal and Child Hygiene and of the Crippled Children's service of the Delaware State Board of Health. She has had intensive training and extensive experience in child health work, beginning with chemical research and progressing to the position of resident physician in several prominent institutions.

Dr. Hotopp is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and of the Society of American Bacteriologists. She is a Fellow of the American Public Health Association.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mrs. R. H. Jesse has had years of experience in partent-teacher work in addition to her experience as an instructor at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, and as an associate professor at the University of Montana. She is a member of the State Welfare Board of Montana and of the Missoula School Board. In the parent-teacher field she has served as president of a local unit and a city council and as president of the state congress.

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Malcolm McClellan is a former president of the Florida Congress of Parents and Teachers. She has had much experience in administrative P. T. A. work and has been active in cooperation with other state agencies and organizations.

Mrs. McClellan has held office in a number of organizations other than the parent-teacher association. Among these are the Florida Council on International Relations, the Tuberculosis and Health Association, and the Continuing Educational Council of the Florida Education Association.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. True Davis was formerly president of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers and brings to her new office a wealth of parent-teacher experience. She has held a number of offices in the state organization, including those of treasurer, corresponding secretary, first vice-president, and chairman of Congress Publications. Honors conferred upon Mrs. Davis include the presidency of the St. Joseph Board of Education, of which she was a member for seven years, and membership on the State Advisory Board on Nursery Schools.

NARCOTICS EDUCATION

Miss Winnie Buckels has been Director of Narcotics Education for the Mississippi Department of Education since 1940. She has had special training in the field of health and narcotics education.

Miss Buckels was chairman of the Narcotics Education committee of the Mississippi Congress from 1940 to 1943, and has worked with local P. T. A.'s throughout the state. She is greatly interested in various phases of child protection and social welfare, and is the author of important source materials for teachers in the field of narcotics education.

PARENT EDUCATION

Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann is associate professor of psychology and parent education, Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, Iowa City, and occupies a leading position in the fields of parent education and child development. He is a frequent contributor to educational and popular periodicals of the day. He is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society for Research in Child Development, and other groups concerned with educational aims.

PROCEDURE AND BYLAWS

Mrs. H. F. Godeke has been highly active in group work of many kinds throughout her career. She has held a number of offices in the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, although her home is now in Texas. She has worked actively with the Girl Scout organization and the Lubbock County Children's Council. Among Mrs. Godeke's major interests are parliamentary law; youth organizations; psychology; and music, especially of the choral type.

PROGRAMS

Mrs. Charles D. Center, of College Park, Georgia, has been active in parent-teacher work since 1923. In 1934 she became a member of the National Board as state president of the Georgia Congress. After two two-year terms as state president she was elected national chairman of Publicity in 1938, serving in that capacity until her election in 1940 to the secretaryship of the National Congress. Mrs. Center's parent-teacher experience is both wide and varied. She has held many offices and served on many important committees at both the state and the national level. At present Mrs. Center is working with the Adult and School Health Education Division of the Georgia State Department of Public Health.

RURAL SERVICE

Dr. I. D. Weeks is president of the University of South Dakota and has contributed extensively to the field of rural education, having served as professor of Rural Education at the Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, South Dakota. He has been active in parent-teacher work since 1927, and in 1928 he was special lecturer for the National Congress.

SAFETY

Mrs. L. K. Nicholson was formerly president of the Utah Congress and has held a number of other offices in her state association. She is a pioneer in preschool child welfare work and is the author of numerous programs for high schools and elementary schools.

Mrs. Nicholson has had special training in P. T. A. work, child psychology and nutrition, and is a leader in civic and educational activities. She has been supervisor of boys in religion, health, and recreational activities.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Attention

28,000 P. T. A. LEADERS!

Your NATIONAL OFFICERS want you to help them promote the circulation and use of the *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine, and they are looking to YOU for cooperation and action.

- Have you appointed a Magazine chairman? If not, please do so before the next meeting.
- Have you considered starting a Magazine Service Club? See page 4 of the August *Bulletin.*
- Is there at least one subscription coming to your P.T.A. each month for the use of the local officers?
- Have you impressed upon your librarian the importance of adding a subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher* to the budget for books and periodicals?
- Do you take the Magazine yourself?
- Is there some one at every P.T.A. meeting to take subscriptions?

Your work as a progressive parent-teacher leader is not complete until you have done your share to bring into your community the valuable, essential, and timely child-welfare knowledge contained in your own official national magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher.* Like all other publications of the National Congress, it is not published for profit, and it is not sold on newsstands or by paid agents. It depends for its circulation on YOUR leadership and on the good will of its many readers.

Plan now to join with YOUR NATIONAL OFFICERS in making the *National Parent-Teacher* known to a still larger number of members this year.

MILITARY DRILL NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING

All parent-teacher members will be interested in a letter from the Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, published in a recent issue of *Education for Victory.* Answering John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education, who had written him for the War Department's opinion on military training in our schools and colleges, Secretary Stimson writes:

"Dear Dr. Studebaker:

"I have your letter asking whether the War Department recommends that military drill take the place of physical education in the curriculum of schools and colleges. I assume your question to apply only to the period of the present war and not to periods of peace.

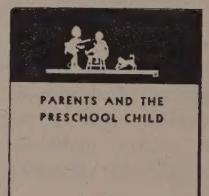
"The amount of military drill which can be given in schools and colleges can also be given after induction into the Army, in a relatively short period of time and under the most productive circumstances. A good physical condition, however, cannot be developed in so short a space of time, and the physical condition of a soldier is of prime importance to the War Department.

"The War Department does not want to appear to advise upon the make-up of a curriculum, nor to go beyond outlining some of the elements that the Army believes would be advantageous in its recruits. Of these, a good physical condition is extremely important and a knowledge of basic military drill relatively unimportant.

"The War Department therefore does not recommend that military drill take the place of physical education in the schools and colleges during the war period.

"The War Department has no objection to the publication of this statement, provided it is quoted in its entirety."

This is useful information for parent-teacher groups. Our associations are cooperating with the High School Victory Corps; they are studying the "stepping up" of all school programs. They now have the backing of the War Department in trying to keep the physical training programs in our schools as strong and sound as ever. This is good news and can be counted on to produce a good effect.



Parents and the Preschool Child

A new National Congress publication, *Parents and the Preschool Child,* is now available. This useful and attractive booklet presents in permanent form some of the most significant articles dealing with the preschool child that have appeared in the *National Parent-Teacher.* Mothers and fathers of young children will find in it a ready and able counselor, and preschool study groups will welcome its timely aid. The price is only twenty-five cents.

Introducing Our New National Chairmen

(*Continued from page 5*)

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Miss Agnes Samuelson is executive secretary of the Iowa State Teachers' Association. She has had a distinguished career in education and at one time served Iowa as state superintendent of public instruction. She has been honored by degrees from several prominent colleges and universities and is the author and co-author of numerous educational monographs.

Miss Samuelson is a member of the Educational Policies Commission of the National Education Association.

SOCIAL HYGIENE

Mrs. Bess N. Rosa is assistant professor at the Woman's College at Greensboro, North Carolina. She has conducted parent education classes for over ten years, and has served as chairman of a survey commiteee on "The Needs of Children in North Carolina." She has also held the position of president of the Greensboro Council of Social Agencies. She is a member of the state executive board for the North Carolina Mental Hygiene Society, of the North Carolina Maternal Health Council, and of the American Social Hygiene Association.

RECREATION

Mrs. Rollin Brown has participated actively in many varieties of community service. Her parent-teacher experience has been broad and thorough; she is a past president of the Los Angeles Tenth District of the California Congress and is now state chairman of Legislation for the second time. She is a member of the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission and of the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Commission.

National President Serves on School Nursing Committee

Mrs. Hastings, our National Congress president, has accepted appointment to the Joint Committee on Lay Participation in School Nursing of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. This group, a member of the National Health Council, works to stimulate public interest in the services of the school nurse and to enlist voluntary cooperation in the school health service program.

Many parent-teacher workers have taken and are taking courses in first aid, home nursing, and nurses' aide work and are rapidly becoming qualified to give a much-needed service. Many tasks now performed by the nurse in the school may be delegated to them. Their work should, of course, be supervised and coordinated by the professional nurse. The present shortage of nursing personnel, which is more likely to increase than to decrease while the war lasts, makes it necessary to distribute the tasks essential to a sound school health program.

HOME NURSING COURSES NEEDED

The Director of Public Relations of the American Red Cross, in a recent letter to Mrs. Hastings, stresses the need of more persons to be trained in home nursing and invites the cooperation of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to this end. "The health of children, war workers, and the public in general becomes increasingly important as constantly growing numbers of doctors and nurses are supplied to the armed forces. . . . Certainly children must not suffer. . . . Every effort must be made to awaken people to the emergency created by the shortage in medical services. . . . The Red Cross Home Nursing course provides a means by which self-reliance in home care of the sick can be increased."

Parent-teacher associations are therefore urged to consider organizing their own classes in home nursing and to request the local Red Cross organization to supply a trained instructor, giving the customary credit to all who complete the course. Nothing will be lost and much will be gained by making this a P. T. A. project.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 3-9

WHAT OUR *State Congress* GROUPS ARE DOING

Interesting highlights from state presidents' reports

Service Men's Centers in South Dakota

South Dakota parent-teacher city councils have helped in the establishment of service men's centers in several cities. P. T. A. volunteers make up the personnel. In some of these recreation centers hours are reserved for the children and youth of the civilian community. This is a great help in solving the delinquency problem.

Instead of its usual annual state convention, the South Dakota Education Association held meetings in four cities last fall. State board members participated. A happy, cooperative spirit characterizes all the relationships of these two state organizations. For the second year in succession, the Education Association has furnished the transportation for the state president and the vice-president to all ten district conferences.

Workshop Scholarships in Tennessee

Since seventy per cent of Tennessee's children attend one- and two-teacher schools, a special effort is being made to bring the standard of training in these schools to a higher level. During the summer, Peabody College offered fifteen scholarships to parent-teacher lay members to attend a workshop for a six-week course on possible means of improving these schools.

New Hampshire Health Program

Forty-five per cent of all New Hampshire parent-teacher associations have held dental and immunization clinics. Forty-two per cent provide cod-liver oil. Forty per cent have health chairmen. All school lunches are sponsored by the superintendents of the various districts, but parent-teacher groups have helped materially in organization, arrangements for obtaining food, and food preparation and serving. There are many active canning projects, and study courses are conducted in the fields of nutrition and health. Letters were sent by the state congress to more than 1,000 superintendents and school board members, urging support of the school lunch.

New York Distributes a "Program Primer"

The school lunch program is in full swing all over the state. Variations in the pattern of this service are almost as numerous as the local units that conduct it.

To comply with requests, program service in New York has been greatly increased. In spite of all handicaps, ninety per cent of the units reporting by means of a special questionnaire have carried through their yearly programs. A "program primer" was compiled by the state chairman and distributed at all spring conferences.

Ohio Stresses Juvenile Protection

The most important work in this field was done through legislation. The Ohio legislature, which was in session from January 1 to June 10, revised many of the state laws pertaining to children. The Ohio Congress of Parents and Teachers was especially active with regard to laws on paternity, adoption, offenses against children, female and child labor, and financial support of schools.

War Conferences in Oklahoma

Instead of the usual four regional conferences, twelve war conferences were held over the state. This larger number of conferences was necessary because of restricted travel. The plan proved most satisfactory in reaching large numbers of people. Plans of work were outlined.

Rhode Island Carries On School Lunch Program

Rhode Island has continued its school lunch program. Its chief problems are those caused by the industrial employment of mothers and the lack of parental oversight at the lunch hour. When the lunch program formerly carried on by WPA had to be discontinued, the State Department of Education took over the project, expanding it as necessary. The penny milk program has been inaugurated in one town.

CLICK SETS THE CLOCK AHEAD

Parent-teacher members "and all inquiring friends" will have a chance to view the P.T.A. in action on the pages of CLICK, national picture magazine (October issue, out September 1.) Five pages of pictures and interpretation will feature the projects and activities of a typical P.T.A. group. In addition, our national president, Mrs. Hastings, who cooperated with the editors of CLICK in arranging the presentation, will answer four questions of vital interest to the P.T.A. today.

The story of this feature's production is both interesting and unusual. Read page 31 of the September 1943 issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* and see how CLICK and the P.T.A. "set the clock ahead" to secure, in the middle of the summer, an accurate picture of what the P.T.A. will be doing a few weeks hence.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has a paid membership of 2,612,345 parents and teachers enlisted in volunteer service to children and youth. There are over 900,000 men in membership.

"For This We Fight"

The series of broadcasts "For This We Fight," presented by NBC's Inter-American University of the Air in cooperation with the Twentieth Century Fund and announced to parent-teacher listeners in the June-July issue of the *National Congress Bulletin*, continues according to plan. Statesmen, business men, labor and farm leaders, educators, and scientists are among the discussants.

These broadcasts take place every Saturday evening from 7:00 to 7:30 Eastern War Time, over NBC and independent affiliated stations. Typical subjects of discussion are "The America We're Fighting For," "The Responsibility of Business," and "American Agriculture After the War." Health, postwar finance, transportation, better and cheaper housing, education, and security are also included.

Upon written request to the Twentieth Century Fund. 330 West Forty-Second Street, New York City, single printed copies of each broadcast will be available without charge.

Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Is your kitchen contributing its share of fat?

ANSWERING *Program* QUESTIONS

● Our association is planning a program on juvenile delinquency. Where can I get material on this subject, reasonably priced? Should I have a round-table discussion to introduce the subject, or do you know a better way to start off? I'm a local Juvenile Protection chairman, and we want to do something practical about this problem.

Whether to begin your program with a round-table discussion is a question that can perhaps best be answered by evaluating the round-table discussions you have had in the past. Does your group respond well to this technique? Have you plenty of discussants who can and will take part without hesitation or shyness? Is the transportation situation such that you can count on their attendance? If the answer to each of these questions is "yes," the round-table discussion will be a very good way to begin. If you are doubtful about any or all of the three questions, it might be a good idea to consider, instead, an address by a trained speaker or a dramatization of some juvenile delinquency problem.

Local officials, such as policemen, policewomen, school administrators, and juvenile court judges, as well as social workers and the field workers of the state welfare department, may be invited to participate.

There is certainly no lack of excellent material available on this topic. In the April 1943 issue of the National Congress Bulletin *you will find several listed answers to the question "How can the P.T.A. help prevent juvenile delinquency and other maladjustments of youth?" The same issue carries another valuable article, "Barometers of Wartime Influences."*

The *National Parent-Teacher*, too, is a never-failing source of materials. Look up the following articles, all published in the past year and therefore timely:

Delinquent Children — Whose Responsibility? Martha W. McDonald, M. D., May 1943.

Why Children Lose Their Bearings. Dan H. Northup, March 1943.

Juvenile Delinquency — A National Problem. J. Edgar Hoover, September 1943.

We and They, Alice Sowers, October, 1943.

The book *Community Life in a Democracy*, published by the National Congress, can give you valuable help, especially the chapter entitled "Invaders of the Children's World." We suggest also that you write your state chairman of Juvenile Protection, who will be glad to help you in any way possible.

● I'm a Program chairman. What source materials should I get for our Bookshelf, that is, literature that is especially helpful to the Program committee? We have only $3.25 to spend.

—And you'll do very nicely on that amount. We suggest, first of all, *Community Life in a Democracy* and the *National Parent-Teacher*, at $1 each. No parent-teacher bookshelf should ever be without these two publications, and the Program chairman especially will find both of them packed with interest and help. *Community Life* covers every field of parent-teacher interest, and its use is made much easier by the questions and study helps that accompany each chapter. These questions were intended primarily for study groups, but you will find in them many suggestions on which programs can be built. The Magazine offers you not one or a few suggestions, but literally dozens to choose from every month.

In addition, we'd suggest the new pamphlet *Parents and the Preschool Child* (25 cents); *The P.T.A. in Community Service* (free); and the *War Handbook* (free). And, of course, that invaluable free guide published especially for you, *Program Planning*. Consult your state chairman of Congress Publications for further suggestions.

SAVE THE FAT